

- A KMS prospect
- Top 20 teams listed
- Red Lake Co. red hot
- Another 3,000-pt. soph
- Traits of the Greats

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Breck enjoys breakout year



Mustangs 21-0 vs. formidable schedule, eye 1st state crown

By Bruce Strand

Breck boys basketball is flying giddily at an unfamiliar altitude this year. A team entering the season with just one state appearance and no conference titles since 1981 is currently 21-0, atop the Class 2A rankings all season, and could probably be a Top Ten team in Class 4A based on their signature wins.

“State Championship has been our goal since the end of last season,” acknowledged coach Harry Sonie, but he added, “We’re taking things day by day, game by game, and enjoying the process.”

Breck returned four starters who combined for 40 points per game in a 19-9 team last year — and then gained the state’s No. 1 college prospect over the summer.

Daniel Freitag, a Wisconsin recruit who averaged 28.5 points last season for Bloomington Jefferson, enrolled at Breck as a senior after changing his mind about attending a California prep school.



Wisconsin recruit Daniel Freitag joined Breck for his senior season.

Bruce Strand, MN BB News

help, as senior Hanif Muhammad (above) adds 15.6 points and five assists per game, junior Miles Newton 13.1 points and 5.5 rebounds, and sophomore JP Musoke 11.5 points. Sophomore DeAngelo Dungey adds 8.2 ppg, sophomore Mu Muhammad 6.3 and junior Teddy Koch 5.1.

Asked what adjustments were made with Freitag coming in, Sonie said not many: “Hanif Muhammad is allowed to play off the ball slightly more than the past, which we feel is a positive for our team. Daniel is a high level player with great talent and IQ, and knew exactly now to fit in with a new group of teammates.”

Muhammad “can do it all offensively,” Sonie said. “He is one of the best on-ball defenders in the state, in my opinion, and he proves it every single night.” Musoke is “a very smart player that can defend, finish inside, and shoot the three at a high percentage.” Newton is also “a huge difference maker” while hitting 48 percent on three’s.

Breck has vanquished a long list of ranked teams: Alexandria (No. 9, 3A) 71-68, Minneapolis North (No. 2, 2A) 90-75, Osseo (No. 13, 4A) 85-58, Hopkins (No. 4,

4A) 87-80, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial (No. 16, 2A) 79-58, Holy Family Catholic (No. 11, 2A) 95-63, Esko (No. 9, 2A) 75-58 and Columbia Heights (No. 12, 3A) 86-67. They have another showdown on Saturday at Class 4A's No. 8 Minneapolis Washburn.

The Independent Metro Athletic Conference title has already been clinched by the Mustangs with a three-game lead on second-place Blake. The IMAC has been dominated by Minnehaha Academy, which has slipped to around .500 this season.

"The conference championship was a very special moment for our boys and the program," Sonie said. "We know how hard it is to win the conference, and it hadn't been done in 43 years at Breck, so it was not taken lightly. That was a goal of ours along the way to our ultimate goal."

About their only two close games, against Alexandria (when the Cardinals, who've had injuries, were still at full strength) and Hopkins, Sonie commented: "Defense was a huge factor. We got crucial stops when we needed them the most in both games. We also executed, and guys made some big plays down the stretch offensively."

Breck is an Episcopal private school, founded in 1886, located in Golden Valley. Its previous boys hoops highlight was advancing to the state finals in 2006 and losing to Braham.

A spate of school records

Scoring records were broken at several schools in the past week, the Star-Tribune reported. Amy Thompson, Stillwater senior guard, poured in 48 points in an 80-50 win over Forest Lake, shooting 18-for-27, including 7-for-13 on three's, breaking Sara Scalia's mark of 39 set in 2018. She's averaging 26 points. Nolan Graves, Orono junior guard, blistered the nets for 50 points in a 90-62 win over St. Louis Park, shooting 18-for-26 (6-for-11 on three's) and topping Jordan Smith's record of 49 set in 2009. He's averaging 24 points. Eli Hoelz, Brainerd senior guard who recently set a single-game assist record with 22, grabbed the scoring record as well with a 44-point burst in a 93-51 win over Willmar, topping the record of 41 shared by Dale Brown and Joey Sauer. He averages 16.9 points and 9.6 assists. Alexis Rose, Becker senior guard, sank 41 points in an 81-65 loss to Albany, eclipsing Dani Nuest's record of 39 set in 2021. Rose is averaging 22.9 points.

Nobody over 6' but RLC is 20-0

By Bruce Strand

Steve Philion has coached basketball for almost a half-century and never had a team start 20-0 before. It's been that kind of season as his Red Lake County Rebels are one of only two squads in the state still unbeaten. "Defense is our main strength. We have to play aggressive, in-your-face defense, because of our lack of size. All nine guys that play are good shooters," said Philion, who's logged 657 career wins. He had two state tournament teams with Clearbrook-Gonvick in the 1990s and has coached his home town team since 1998.



Connor Duden (15) and Owen Chervestad (11) with young RLC fans.

The pint-sized Rebels, with nobody over six feet, have beaten everyone by double digits except East Grand Forks (78-77) and Warren-Alvarado-Oslo (71-68). They led EGF 51-30. "Our point guard, Owen Chervestad, sprained his ankle and sat out. We hung on to barely win," he recounted. RLC trailed WAO until late three-pointers by Ben Gullingsrud and Connor Duden helped pull it out.

Duden, a sophomore, and Chervestad, a junior, both went over 1,000 points in the past two weeks. Chervestad is close to 600 rebounds and 500 assists. Both are 6-foot guards. The nine-man rotation also includes eighth-grader Gullingsrud, senior John Powers, juniors Ethan Majeres and Luke Peterson, and sophomores Will Gieseke, Ethan Johnson, and Gunnar Halverson. Duden averages 21.2 points, Chervestad 17.3, and Gieseke 10.5. The Rebels are shooting three's with 35.5 accuracy; six players have between 25 and 48. Defensively, they average 11.5 steals per game.

The Rebels have a fighting chance to become the school's first state tournament boys team, this year or in the next couple. Ranked No. 6, RLC plays in Section 8A, which has No. 4 Fertile-Beltrami, seven-time state qualifier Cass Lake-Bena, and "several other talented teams" who could knock anybody off, Philion said.

College cager from Kerk? Cool!

By Bruce Strand

Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg is not known for turning out college basketball players. DeAndre Holloway is probably the first one from the district since the 1956 graduate whose scoring record he's likely to break soon. Holloway, a 6-foot-7, 195-pound senior who arrived in town as a foster child, is courted by "high-end D3 and some D2" teams, coach Matt Fragodt reports. One rival coach assessed: "He has a high ceiling, in my opinion. Extremely athletic, long, jumps out of the gym, quick, and gets to the rim like a very good 6-1 guard."

Holloway is averaging 27 points and 11 rebounds, with a high of 44 points, on the heels of his breakout junior year when he logged 23 points, nine rebounds, 2.3 steals and 3.1 blocks per game — and led the Fighting Saints to a 21-6 record, by far their best in this millenium. Although not a big scorer until then, he has passed the 1,300 point marker, nearing the district record of 1,435 points, held for 68 years by Chuck Lierman of Kerkhoven. He has passed the Murdock record of 1,285 held by 1966 grad Ken Gregoire and the KMS record of 1,220 held by 2005 grad Justin Laughlin.

Wally Loven, a retiree who has covered sports for the Kerkhoven Banner since 2003, and was a football/baseball player for "Kerk" in the early 60's, assessed: "I myself have not seen any player at Kerk/Murdock/KMS who can do the things that he does." Last year, Loven noted, with two teammates injured, Holloway brought the ball up against the press, covered the opponent's best perimeter shooter, and went inside to rebound. "He's a monster inside, and had 18 three-pointers last season," he added. The West Central Tribune made him an All-Area first team pick. Loven can't think of anyone from the district who played college hoops, other than "maybe at Willmar," a nearby junior college -- since Lierman was a Gophers recruit but thwarted by a knee injury. Holloway intends to end that drought. "I want to play college basketball," he said. "Start somewhere, any level will be fine, and work my way up. I'd be a three, or a four (position)."

Neither KMS, nor Kerkhoven or Murdock before they merged in 1978, has never gotten close to a state tournament in boys basketball. The KMS boys are usually below .500. There was one recent four-year stretch with a record of two wins and 98 losses (2012-17). KMS has fielded some great wrestling teams. One season not long ago, Loven said, two wrestlers volunteered to leave their favorite sport and join the basketball team as a good deed for the school because it was dangerously short of players.

So, last year's 21-6 season was quite a thrill for the community. Currently KMS is 11-8 despite having such a dynamic player, due in large part to football injuries that sidelined two seniors who were starters the last two years. Holloway said the team is "working hard" and still hopes to make a run like last year.

KMS landed its future star when Rachael Gunderson of Kerkhoven took on DeAndre as a foster child. "I got here in seventh grade, and I've never left," said Holloway. When Rachael subsequently married, she and her husband adopted DeAndre.

Back to Chuck Lierman: Loven has been trying to find out whatever he can about the fifties phenom for an article when Holloway breaks the record. Bear in mind that 1,435 points in the mid-50's would be similar to about 2,500 today. They had shorter schedules, no three-point shots, and slower paced games. Lierman went to the U of M, recruited by coach Ozzie Cowles and awarded a

Williams scholarship. He would have played with prep legends like Norm Grow of Foley and Ron Johnson of New Prague. Unfortunately, he had knee surgery his first year there. Knee injuries that can be repaired now were often career-killers back then, and Lierman had to drop out of basketball. "He was pretty much never heard from again," Loven said. Loven recently found a 1956 teammate. "He said (Lierman) could shoot from anywhere on the half court." He had a 39-point game in the District 20 semifinals before the Eagles lost to Willmar. The sports writer mused that it's "been an interesting research" in connecting this star from almost 70 years ago to the current luminary.



DeAndre Holloway

Kerkhoven Banner photo

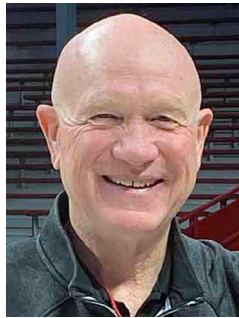
Traits of the Greats

By Jeff McCarron

I've been fortunate to have a front row seat, watching many of the best head coaches succeed "behind the scenes".

Here is my list of the most important characteristics of a great head coach:

- 1) **Recruiter of talent** – recruits the best talent (under the school roof for HS) to become a participant in the program.
- 2) **Recruiter of parents/volunteers from the community** – recruits dedicated people to help coach and coordinate teams, raise funds, and work in fund-raising events. Develops an "It takes a village to raise a team."
- 3) **Developer of talent** – works diligently to provide open gym time, practices, leagues, youth teams, camps, and tournaments to motivate players and develop their talent.
- 4) **Student of the game** – seeks further knowledge for self and all coaches in the program by attending clinics, reading, researching, learning from the best, scouting.
- 5) **Educator of the game** – develops coaching talent by speaking and teaching at every grade level and involving other coaches in the process to sharpen skills.
- 6) **Coordinator of over-all program** – provides a sense of unity with a plan and theme throughout all ages of players as well as the team of people working in the program.
- 7) **Standard bearer** – sets goals and standards for the players and teams in the program that encourage players to join and parents to support.
- 8) **Role model of behavioral standards** – sets standards of behavior and sportsmanship that are established for all ages and modeled by the coaches and high school teams on the floor.
- 9) **Developer of team loyalty in young players** – includes young players in varsity games – halftime recognition, halftime games, seating behind the team. Provides mascot gear in school colors for players FREE or at reasonable prices.
- 10) **Creator of fun** – develops events that are fun to get everyone in the program involved.



Great coaches:

- A) **Teach DEFENSE first** – It is the most dependable team skill.
- B) **Teach "aggression"** – Aggressor wins.
- C) **Teach TEAM values** – Team is everything, discourage individualism.

In my lifetime, the two most consistently successful teams were the Boston Celtics and the UCLA men. The Celtics won NBA championships in 11 of 13 years from 1957 to 1969, including 8 in a row. UCLA won NCAA championships in 10 of 12 years, including 7 in a row. The Celtics won with team unity, great defense, aggressive offense movement, and a team first attitude. Start with tenacious defense to create turnovers. Fastbreak from turnovers at every opportunity. When slowed down, be the aggressor with non-stop movement – picks, screens, drives – and get the ball to the person most open to score. Dive to save a loose ball or create a jump ball, deflect a pass that starts a fastbreak, strip the ball from ballhandlers, take charges – and take "delight" in all of it as do the team's bench players and fans, who have all developed a high basketball IQ, understanding all the exciting little things that make a championship team.

John Wooden, head coach at UCLA, set a high standard of behavior for his players and insisted on players adhering to team basketball principles. I loved listening to an audio "talk" by Coach Wooden and played it to kids in camps for many years. My favorite was his orange peelings story. He talked about players being given oranges for energy during halftime or during a break in practice. After the players left the room, he noted which ones threw away their peelings and which ones left the peelings for someone else to clean up. Guess which ones he wanted on his team? He wanted a "team" mentality at the core of his players' souls.

In Minnesota high school basketball, two coaches have reached 1,000 wins: Bob McDonald at Chisholm (boys) and Mike Dreier at New London-Spicer (girls). Bob had the gym open 365 days a year with lower baskets for little kids. That alone gave Bluestreak basketball a big advantage.

Coach McDonald had a sharp wit and a delight in relating to people. At his son Paul's wedding, he picked up my little 2-year old son. "Hmmm...gonna be a big

one.” At a coaching clinic he joked that his coaching staff would circulate around town and prick holes in contraceptives. His team’s often outscored opponents by big numbers, but he kept his starters in. He didn’t feel his starters should be penalized playing time because opponents hadn’t worked as hard as they had. At a camp one day in the Chisholm gym, I sat a player out for losing his cool – getting angry and crying in a rage. Coach McDonald marched over, and I wondered if I might soon receive a scolding. He went straight to the player – probably a 4th-5th grader – and scolded him. The boy sniffed up his sobs and soon he was back in the game.

Mike Dreier is a detailist. Like Bob McDonald, he knows all of his players from birth, and teaches all of his coaches to coach what he coaches at every level. The players know very well what to do in every situation and seem to go about their business on the court with an eerie calm. If they slip up, that sharp, penetrating Dreier shriek, almost, reminds them quickly. It’s like a karate jab to the abdomen to pay attention. Coach Dreier also employs a John Wooden strategy – a full-court 2-2-1 press for the whole game after made baskets – just waiting for the other team to throw an errant pass. His Wildcats have “gone to state” a state-record 20 times. Coach Dreier also has the record for the most teams entered in Pacesetter tournaments, so he will always be my hero. We jokingly named our in-home office addition: “The Dreier Wing”.

Two of the most successful high school coaches are Kenny Novak Jr. and Brian Cosgriff, who led countless teams to state at Hopkins and have won 15 state championships between them. I haven’t observed them on a day-to-day basis, but which two coaches ask to be in the Pacesetter “Sweet 16” every year – and which two deserve it every year? Just saying.... Coach Cosgriff is now at Minnetonka with a solid chance of winning another state title.

Regardless of the win-loss record, great coaches continue to set high standards of on-court and off-court behavior as a first priority, care about their kids and families, and give their players every chance to succeed in their sport and in life.

Like one of the greatest coaches to ever coach the game, Pat Dewey of Sandstone, shared with me as his motto for his players: “Do your best, be nice.” Five words that fit on five fingers. Pure in its simplicity – that covers it all. No one can ever ask more of a player, coach, or human being.

Pacesetter Minnesota 8-region

State Championship Playoffs –

Grades 4-9

SCHOOLS WITH TEAMS REGISTERED SO FAR

(through Feb 9-12 noon)

500+ teams expected to play

102 Schools! 229 teams!

Aitkin • Albany • Alexandria • Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa • Bemidji • Benson • Blackduck • Byron • Carlton • Cass Lake-Bena • Chatfield • Cherry • Chisholm • Clearbrook-Gonvick • Cloquet • Dassel-Cokato • Dawson-Boyd • Detroit Lakes • Dover-Eyota • Duluth East • East Grand Forks • Eden Valley-Watkins • Esko • Fergus Falls • Floodwood • Goodhue • Granda-Huntley-East Chain • Grand Rapids • Greenway • Hawley • Hibbing • International Falls • Jackson Co. Central • Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton • Kenyon-Wanamingo • Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg • La Crescent • Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial • Lanesboro • Litchfield • Long Prairie-Grey Eagle • Mahnomen/Waubun • Mankato Loyola • Maple River • Marshall • Marshall Co. Central • Minnesota Valley Lutheran • Minnewaska • Moose Lake-Willow River • Morris Area • Mountain Iron-Buhl • Mountain Lake • New London-Spicer • New Ulm • New Ulm St. Paul’s • North Woods • Northome-Kelliher • Park Rapids • Paynesville • Pillager • Pine City • Pine Island • Plainview-Elgin-Millville • Red Lake • Red Rock Central • Redwood Valley • Rochester Century • Rochester Lourdes • Rock Ridge • ROCORI • Roseau • Rothsay • Russell-Tyler-Ruthton • Sartell • Sauk Centre • Sauk Rapids-Rice • Sibley East • South Ridge • St. Cloud Tech • St. James • St. Peter • St. Clair • Sleepy Eye St. Mary’s • Springfield • Staples-Motley • Stephen-Argyle Central • Stewartville • Tri-County • Triton • Truman • Two Harbors • Underwood • United So. Central • Wabasha-Kellogg • Wabasso • Warroad • Westbrook-Walnut Grove • Willmar • Windom • Worthington • Wrenshall

ROAD TO THE TARGET CENTER!

2024 Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships


Boys & Girls Grades 4-7

Region 1: Stewartville/Rochester - March 16 & 17
*5&7BG - 4&6BG

Region 2: Lake Crystal - March 23 & 24
*4&6BG - 5&7BG

Region 3: Redwood Falls - March 9 & 10
*5&7BG - 4&6BG




Region 4: St. Cloud - Feb 25 & March 3
*4B-7B - 4G-7G



State Tournament
St. Cloud, MN
Sunday, April 7

Champions & Runners-up
advance to play in the
Great 5-State at the
Target Center

MN • IA • WI • ND • SD

Region 5: St. Cloud - Feb 24 & March 2
*4B-7B - 4G-7G

Region 6: Alexandria - Feb 17 & 18
*4&6BG - 5&7BG

Region 7: Gr Rapids/Mt. Iron - Feb 17 & 18
*5&7BG - 4&6BG

Region 8: Bemidji - March 16 & 17
*5&7BG - 4&6BG

For Further Information and Registration
<https://www.pacesettersports.net/mn-championship/>

*Guide: 5&7BG - 4&6BG = 5th & 7th Boys & Girls - Saturday • 4th & 6th Boys and Girls - Sunday

State bracket pairings will be seeded once teams are finalized, not necessarily as represented on this bracket


ROAD TO THE TARGET CENTER!

2024 Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships

Boys & Girls Grades 8-9

North Super Section: St. Cloud - March 17 & 24
*8G&9G - 8B&9B




Central Super Section: Monticello/St. Cloud - March 17 & 24
*8B&9B - 8G&9G



State Tournament
St. Cloud, MN
Sunday, April 7

Champions & Runners-up
advance to play in the
Great 5-State at the
Target Center

MN • IA • WI • ND • SD

Southeast Super Section: Rochester - March 17 & 24
*8G&9G - 8B&9B

Southwest Super Section: Lake Crystal - March 17 & 24
*8G&9G - 8B&9B

For Further Information and Registration
<https://www.pacesettersports.net/mn-championship/>

*Guide: 8G&9G - 8B&9B = 8th & 9th Girls - 3/17 • 8th & 9th Boys - 3/24

State bracket pairings will be seeded once teams are finalized, not necessarily as represented on this bracket

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 1: Stewartville/Rochester - March 16 & 17

4th Grade Boys

1. Rochester Century
2. Goodhue
3. Stewartville
4. La Crescent-Hokah
5. Lanesboro
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. Stewartville
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Goodhue
2. Stewartville
3. Byron
4. Rochester Lourdes
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Chatfield
2. Plainview-Elgin-Millville
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys **FULL!**

1. Redwood Valley
2. Rochester Lourdes
3. Triton
4. Dover Eyota
5. La Crescent
6. Pine Island
7. Byron
8. Stewartville

6th Grade Girls

1. Stewartville
2. Rochester Lourdes
3. Plainview-Elgin-Millville
4. Rochester Century
5. La Crescent-Hokah
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. Rochester Century
2. Plainview-Elgin-Millville
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 2: Lake Crystal - March 23 & 24

4th Grade Boys

1. Maple River
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. St. Peter
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Mountain Lake
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Mankato Loyola
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. United South Central
2. LCWM
3. St. Joseph Waconia
4. St. Paul's New Ulm
5. Triton
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. St. Clair
2. St. Peter
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. St. Peter
2. LCWM
3. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton
4. Kenyon-Wanamingo
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 3: Redwood Falls • March 9 & 10

4th Grade Boys

1. Jackson Co Central
2. Westbrook-Walnut-Grove
3. Dawson-Boyd
4. Litchfield
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. Red Rock Central
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Westbrook Walnut Grove
2. Jackson Co Central
3. Windom
4. ROCORI
5. Canby
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Windom
2. New London-Spicer
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. Westbrook Walnut Grove
2. Sibley East
3. Jackson Co Central
4. St. Paul's New Ulm
5. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton
6. Windom
7. Marshall
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. St. Clair
2. Westbrook-Walnut Grove
3. Worthington
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys **FULL!**

1. Jackson Co Central
2. Redwood Valley
3. Wabasso
4. Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
5. Willmar
6. ROCORI
7. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton
8. Springfield

7th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 4: St. Cloud - Feb 25 & March 3

4th Grade Boys

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. Paynesville
2. Eden Valley-Watkins
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Sartell
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Sauk Centre
2. Pine City
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. Sauk Centre
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. Pillager
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. Pillager
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 5: St. Cloud - Feb 24 & March 2

4th Grade Boys

1. Albany
2. Sauk Centre
3. St. Cloud Tech
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Litchfield
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. Paynesville
2. Pillager
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. Eden Valley-Watkins
2. Sauk Rapids-Rice
3. St. Peter
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. Morris
2. Sauk Centre
3. St. Cloud Tech
4. Sleepy Eye St. Mary's
5. Pine Island
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 6: Alexandria • Feb 17 & 18

4th Grade Boys

1. Benson
2. Hawley
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa
2. Alexandria
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Alexandria
2. Fergus Falls
3. East Grand Forks
4. Alexandria
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Fergus Falls
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. Alexandria
2. Morris
3. Rothsay
4. Fergus Falls
5. Long Prairie Grey Eagle
6. Pillager
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. Minnewaska
2. Hawley
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. Fergus Falls
2. Underwood
3. East Grand Forks
4. Pillager
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. Pillager
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 7: Gr Rapids/Mt. Iron - Feb 17 & 18

4th Grade Boys

1. Cloquet
2. Stephen/Argyle Central
3. Mountain Iron-Buhl
4. Greenway
5. Cass Lake
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. North Woods
2. Grand Rapids
3. Mountain Iron-Buhl
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Cherry
2. Stephen/Argyle Central
3. Mountain Iron-Buhl
4. Rock Ridge
5. Grand Rapids
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Duluth East
2. Aitkin
3. Chisholm
4. Moose Lake/Willow River
5. North Woods
6. Mountain Iron-Buhl
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys **FULL!**

1. Grand Rapids
2. Cherry
3. Stephen/Argyle Central
4. South Ridge
5. Mountain Iron-Buhl
6. Hibbing
7. Greenway
8. Two Harbors

6th Grade Girls **FULL!**

1. Cloquet
2. Duluth East
3. Chisholm
4. Aitkin
5. North Woods
6. Mountain Iron-Buhl
7. International Falls
8. Carlton/Wrenshall

7th Grade Boys

1. Moose Lake/Willow River
2. Grand Rapids
3. Rock Ridge
4. Mountain Iron-Buhl
5. Staples-Motely
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. Duluth East
2. Grand Rapids
3. Mountain Iron-Buhl
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

REGION 8: Bemidji - March 16 & 17

4th Grade Boys

1. Bemidji
2. Park Rapids
3. Warroad
4. Cass Lake
5. Mahnomen-Waubun
6. .
7. .
8. .

4th Grade Girls

1. Bemidji
2. Warroad
3. Red Lake
4. Park Rapids
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Boys

1. Park Rapids
2. Clearbrook-Gonvick
3. Warroad
4. Bemidji
5. Red Lake
6. Red Lake County
7. .
8. .

5th Grade Girls

1. Cass Lake-Bena
2. Red Lake
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Boys

1. Stephen/Argyle Central
2. Detroit Lakes
3. Cass Lake-Bena
4. Red Lake
5. Floodwood
6. Bemidji
7. .
8. .

6th Grade Girls

1. Bemidji
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Boys

1. Bemidji
2. Red Lake
3. Park Rapids
4. Pillager
5. Northome-Kelliher
6. Cass Lake-Bena
7. .
8. .

7th Grade Girls

1. Roseau
2. Esko
3. Pillager
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

North Super Section: St. Cloud ▪ March 17 & 24

8th Grade Boys

1. Mountain Iron-Buhl
2. Pillager
3. Northome-Kelliher
4. ROCORI
5. Cass Lake-Bena
6. .
7. .
8. .

8th Grade Girls

1. Dassel Cokato
2. Mountain Iron-Buhl
3. Chisholm
4. Blackduck
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Boys

1. Cass Lake/Red Lake
2. Red Lake
3. Chisholm
4. Northern Freeze (MCC/Tri-County)
5. Northome-Kelliher
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Girls

1. Stephen Argyle Central
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Central Super Section: Monticello/St. Cloud ▪ March 17 & 24

8th Grade Boys

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

8th Grade Girls

1. Staples-Motely
2. Pillager
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Boys

1. Paynesville
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Girls

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

MN PLAYOFFS - REGISTERED TEAMS

Southeast Super Section: Rochester ▪ March 17 & 24

8th Grade Boys

1. Wabasha-Kellogg
2. Plainview-Elgin-Millville
3. Chatfield
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

8th Grade Girls

1. Dover-Eyota
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Boys

1. .
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Girls

1. Goodhue
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Southwest Super Section: Lake Crystal ▪ March 17 & 24

8th Grade Boys

1. St. James
2. Kenyon-Wanamingo
3. GHEC-T
4. MN Valley Lutheran
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

8th Grade Girls

1. St. Clair
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Boys

1. Jackson Co Central
2. New Ulm
3. Janesville Waldorf Pemberton
4. United South Central
5. Kenyon-Wanamingo
6. MN Valley Lutheran
7. .
8. .

9th Grade Girls

1. United South Central
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
6. .
7. .
8. .

Note: Total registration is estimated at 45%

ROAD TO THE TARGET CENTER

PACESSETTER

Boys & Girls Grades 4-9

2024 Minnesota YOUTH BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Region Playoffs

NEW in 2024!

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- Limit of 16 teams - grades 8-9 in 4 Super Sections
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Team fee: \$230 • 3-4 game guarantee

**See the list of Pacesetter regions and
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Region 1

Stewartville/Rochester • March 16 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7
Stewartville/Rochester • March 17 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6

Region 2

Lake Crystal • March 23 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6
Lake Crystal • March 24 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7

Region 3

Redwood Falls • March 9 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7
Redwood Falls • March 10 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6

Region 4

St. Cloud • February 25 • Boys Grades 4-7
St. Cloud • March 3 • Girls Grades 4-7

Region 5

St. Cloud • February 24 • Boys Grades 4-7
St. Cloud • March 2 • Girls Grades 4-7

Region 6

Alexandria • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6
Alexandria • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7

Region 7

Grand Rapids • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grade 5
Grand Rapids • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grade 4
Mt. Iron-Buhl • February 17 • Boys & Girls Grade 7
Mt. Iron-Buhl • February 18 • Boys & Girls Grade 6

Region 8

Bemidji • March 16 • Boys & Girls Grades 5 & 7
Bemidji • March 17 • Boys & Girls Grades 4 & 6

Southeast Super Section-Regions 1 & 4

Rochester • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
Rochester • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

Southwest Super Section-Regions 2 & 3

Lake Crystal • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
Lake Crystal • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

Central Super Section-Regions 5 & 6

Monticello • March 17 • Boys Grades 8 & 9
St. Cloud • March 24 • Girls Grades 8 & 9

North Super Section-Regions 7 & 8

St. Cloud • March 17 • Girls Grades 8 & 9
St. Cloud • March 24 • Boys Grades 8 & 9

Post-season Invitations

Region champ & Section champ/runner-up - Pacesetter MN STATE
Region/Section high finishers - Pacesetter MIT - Minnesota Invitational Tournament
STATE champ/runner-up - Pacesetter "Great State" at Target Center



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Another soph star gets 3,000

By Bruce Strand

Maddyn Greenway of Providence Academy cracked the 3,000-point marker while scoring 44 points against Maple Grove at home Friday, Feb. 2. Maple Grove beat the Lions 86-80 with Jordan Ode sinking 33 points, and Claire Stern and Ava Cossette 17 each. Greenway reached 3,000 three days after watching Crosby-Ironton's Tori Oehrlein do the same against her own team. Providence won that game 93-75. They are the only two sophomores in the state ever to reach 3,000.

Emmerson Helget, Annandale junior, sank 13 of 17 three-pointers and totaled 41 points in a 75-44 win over Dassel-Cokato on Feb. 2. Her 13 three's tied the state record held by Sari Noga of Parkers Prairie (2008) and Makayla VanNett of Como Park (2017).

AROUND THE STATE

Ari Peterson, Providence Academy eighth-grader, has already gotten a scholarship offer from the Gophers. The fleet, lanky daughter of former Viking great Adrian Peterson is averaging 11 points and seven rebounds. She posted this on instagram on Jan. 31: "After a nice talk with Coach Plitzuweit, I am blessed and excited go receive my first offer from the University of Minnesota. Go Gophers!"

Wayzata boys outlasted Minnetonka 98-87 in a matchup of two of the top three ranked teams in Class 4A on Feb. 1 with Jackson McAndrew drilling 31 points and Christian Wiggins 28. Andy Stefanowicz had 27, Greyson Ueland 18 and Jordan Cain 17 for Tonka. Wayzata then edged DeLaSalle 63-62 two days later with McAndrew sinking 22 points and Wyatt McBeth 13. Ray James Jr. had 16 and Jaden Morgan 15 for the Islanders. Wayzata and Edina share the Lake Conference lead with 5-1 records.

Chad Johnston, coach of three state champion girls teams at Minnetonka, logged his 500th victory as coach of the boys team on Jan. 29 when the Vikings beat Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg 75-70 at home. In the same game, senior guard Max Rost scored 25 points and went over the 1,000-point marker. Johnston coached the Viking girls for 21 seasons, compiling a 478-116 record with Class 1A titles in 2013, 2019 and 2021, plus two state runners-up. His first boys team last year was 8-17. This year's team is 16-6. Currently, his record is 502-139.

Totino-Grace boys earned a season sweep of Park Center 75-63 on Friday as Chase Watley hit 27 points and Isaiah Johnson-Arigo 26. The Class 3A and 4A powers meet twice a year in the Northwest Suburban Conference. Those are the Pirates' only two losses.

Dawson-Boyd lost to Castlewood 49-46 on Feb. 2 in a duel of No. 2 ranked teams in the smallest classes in Minnesota and South Dakota. Lane Tveltdt scored 21 points for Castlewood (14-2). Brayson Boike scored 18 and Gunner Liebl 12 for the Blackjacks (20-2).

East Grand Forks and Kittson County Central waged a grueling double OT battle Tuesday with EGF prevailing 101-97 in Hallock. Tatem Votava sank 29 points for EGF (17-5) and her 3-pointer with 26 seconds left in regulation tied the score at 79. It was still knotted at 88 after one OT. The second OT was tied at 90, 92, and 94 before EGC opened a 99-94 lead on Ellie Marcott's banked-in three-pointer. Green Wave coach Casi Zinny said her team dealt admirably with foul trouble (they had 34 and KCC had 22) and were "still fighting till the end, even with having some of them on the court for probably a half hour straight." Camryn Adams added 15 points and Mya Langerud 14. Marcott and McKaylee Fitzpatrick combined for 12 points in the second OT. For KCC (16-4), which had won eight straight, Morgan Turn sank 23 points, McKinley Folland 19, Greta Kunzia 15 and Kaydence White 13.

JUMP SHOTS — Rhyann Holmgren, St. Peter senior guard, reached 2,000 points on Jan. 30 while scoring 18 in a 65-33 win over Blue Earth Area. She is averaging 19 points Shakopee (No. 5, 4A boys) thumped Lakeville North (No. 7, 4A) 85-60 on Feb. 1, reversing an earlier loss (83-78) to the Panthers, leaving them tied for the South Suburban lead, each 8-2. Jackson Langsy sank 28 points, Lucas Wherley 15 and Isaac Snell 14 for the Sabres Benita Nolt, LeRoy-Ostrander junior, notched her 1,000th point on Jan. 25 during a 60-55 win over Lanesboro and her 1,000th rebound on Feb. 6 during a 47-44 loss to Wabasha-Kellogg Stewartville (No. 4, 3A boys) pulled out back-to-back close wins over Lake City (No. 3, 2A) 55-53, with Henry Tschetter scoring 22 points and Tegan Malone 12, and Benilde-St. Margaret's (No. 7, 3A) 70-68 with Tschetter hitting 28 points and Malone 13 Willow Thiel, Perham senior who snagged her 1,000th rebound Jan. 13, notched her 2,000th point on Tuesday while logging 34 points and 15 rebounds in a 69-52 win over Breckenridge.

MBBN BOYS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Wayzata 19-1
2. Park Center 18-2
3. Minnetonka 14-3
4. Hopkins 14-4
5. Shakopee 15-3
6. Farmington 14-5
7. Lakeville
North 14-5
8. Minneapolis
Washburn 17-2
9. Edina 12-7
10. Lakeville
South 13-6
11. East Ridge 12-7
12. Cretin-Derham
Hall 14-3
13. Osseo 13-6
14. Waconia 15-4
15. Tartan 15-3
16. Rogers 15-5
17. Maple
Grove 11-7
18. Sauk Rapids-
Rice 13-5
19. Apple
Valley 11-8
20. Eagan 11-8

*Records are
through Tuesday*

CLASS 3A

1. Totino-
Grace 16-3
2. Mankato
East 18-1
3. Minneapolis
South 13-3
4. Stewartville 16-3
5. DeLaSalle 12-7
6. Delano 16-4
7. Benilde-St.
Margaret's 11-8
8. St. Cloud
Tech 13-5
9. Alexandria 14-5
10. Mankato
West 15-4
11. Orono 11-8
12. Columbia
Heights 13-3
13. Richfield 11-9
14. Fridley 13-5
15. Byron 17-4
16. Hutchinson 13-5
17. St. Paul
Johnson 11-3
18. Detroit
Lakes 17-2
19. St. Paul
Harding 15-4
20. Chisago
Lakes 13-6

CLASS 2A

1. Breck 21-0
2. Minneapolis
North 13-7
3. Lake City 17-4
4. Eden Valley-
Watkins 17-3
5. Albany 17-2
6. Crosby-
Ironton 16-1
7. Annandale 15-3
8. Cannon
Falls 15-4
9. Esko 13-5
10. Spectrum 17-2
11. Holy Family
Catholic 12-8
12. Pequot
Lakes 15-3
13. Southwest
Christian 13-5
14. Legacy
Christian 17-3
15. Osakis 15-4
16. Lake Crystal
Wellcome
Memorial 15-3
17. LaCrescent-
Hokah 16-5
18. Caledonia 15-4
19. Foley 13-4
20. Maranatha
Christian 14-4

CLASS 1A

1. Cherry 18-2
2. Dawson-
Boyd 20-2
3. Spring
Grove 16-1
4. Fertile-
Beltrami 16-2
5. West Central
Area 15-3
6. Red Lake
County 20-0
7. Henning 18-2
8. Mt. Lake Area/
Comfrey 18-1
9. Blooming
Prairie 19-2
10. Hillcrest
Lutheran 16-2
11. Heritage
Christian 14-4
12. Ada-Borup
West 17-3
13. Southland 16-3
14. Cass Lake-
Bena 13-6
15. Nevis 15-4
16. Sleepy Eye-
St. Mary's 15-6
17. Rushford-
Peterson 14-4
18. Springfield 14-5
19. Sleepy Eye 14-5
20. Mountain Iron-
Buhl 14-4

MBBN GIRLS TOP 20

CLASS 4A

1. Hopkins 19-2
2. Minnetonka 19-2
3. Maple Grove 17-3
4. St. Michael-Albertville 16-5
5. Wayzata 16-5
6. Lakeville North 17-4
7. Eden Prairie 16-6
8. Andover 17-3
9. White Bear Lake 17-5
10. Rosemount 15-6
11. Eastview 16-5
12. Prior Lake 11-10
13. Rochester Mayo 18-3
14. Stillwater 15-6
15. Chaska 13-8
16. Centennial 12-8
17. Elk River 11-9
18. East Ridge 14-8
19. Blaine 12-8
20. Eagan 10-9

CLASS 3A

1. DeLaSalle 18-3
2. Benilde-St. Margaret's 14-5
3. Alexandria 18-3
4. St. Peter 19-1
5. Delano 20-1
6. Marshall 16-4
7. Rock Ridge 19-2
8. Byron 17-4
9. New Ulm 17-6
10. Mankato East 14-6
11. Monticello 18-3
12. Winona 15-6
13. Orono 11-9
14. Becker 12-7
15. Mahtomedi 12-7
16. Stewartville 15-8
17. Minneapolis Roosevelt 16-6
18. Totino-Grace 13-7
19. Hill-Murray 11-10
20. Kasson-Man-torville 11-10

CLASS 2A

1. Providence Academy 17-4
2. Minnehaha Academy 19-3
3. Albany 18-1
4. New London-Spicer 19-2
5. Crosby-Ironton 17-5
6. Perham 18-3
7. Pelican Rapids 20-2
8. Pequot Lakes 17-3
9. Jordan 16-6
10. St. Croix Lutheran 15-6
11. Rochester Lourdes 16-5
12. Winona Cotter 18-5
13. Caledonia 15-6
14. Sauk Centre 17-4
15. Holy Family Catholic 16-6
16. Dover-Eyota 18-5
17. Duluth Marshall 14-7
18. Holdingford 17-4
19. Menahga 19-1
20. Barnesville 13-7

CLASS 1A

1. Goodhue 18-5
2. Mountain Iron-Buhl 19-2
3. Hancock 20-1
4. Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 19-2
5. Sleepy Eye 19-2
6. Hayfield 20-2
7. Fosston 20-1
8. Underwood 18-2
9. Sacred Heart 18-1
10. Kelliher-Northome 16-3
11. Cromwell-Wright 15-6
12. Minneota 20-3
13. Southwest MN Christian 18-2
14. Braham 17-4
15. Cass Lake-Bena 14-4
16. Ogilvie 18-3
17. Walker-Hackensack-Akeley 15-6
18. Mayer Lutheran 12-9
19. Park Christian 19-2
20. Spring Grove 19-3

*Records are
through Tuesday*



2024 Minnesota Basketball News • An Invitation-only Event

TOP 100 EXPO SHOWCASE

College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, MN

Tuesday, July 2



The Top 100+ Players in each class are being invited along with select players from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Seeking player nominations from head coaches for the 2024-25 Watch List. Email player name and school to Jeff McCarron at jmac8144@yahoo.com



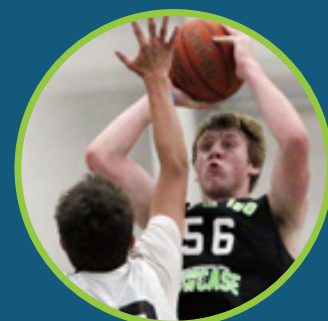
COLLEGE PREP BASKETBALL CAMP

Monday, July 1

The Pacesetter "College Prep" program is designed for male and female players entering grade 9 through college freshman seeking to play basketball in college.

Players will be taught high-level skills by college coaches in a comprehensive one-day, 7-hour format.

Players will be given the best tips to become a successful college player on and off the court.



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**2024 PACESETTER**

Basketball Camps

Pacesetter has been providing high-quality, low-cost camps since 1980. Highly experienced directors and low player-coach ratios are a Pacesetter standard. Pacesetter focuses on teaching the most important skills to make the greatest possible improvement in a few days...for a cost most families can afford.

Area Camps—Pacesetter Area Camps serve players in many regions of the 5-state area. Camp hosts design the time schedule of the sessions and the grades and genders to meet their needs. These camps range from 3-4 days and provide sessions ranging from 1-6 hours per day for players in grades 1-12.

“Tour of Champions” Camp—Pacesetter also offers a special “Tour of Champions” series of camps in the 5-state area. These camps will be 1-2 days and feature the very best coaches in the Midwest – coaches who have won state championships or head college coaches or coaches who have reached other high levels of success – Hall of Fame, Coach of the Year, etc. Host coaches may also invite their coaching staff to attend these special camps as a free coaching clinic.

Camp of Champions...that comes to YOUR gym!

Customize your camp to YOUR program

To set up a camp at your school, please email Tracey at pacesettersportsmbbn@gmail.com

